



September 15, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK230-3-10

SUBJECT: EOP – FY2002 Oklahoma Civil Rights Award Winner

Purpose: Announce winner of FY02 Oklahoma Civil Rights \$1,000 Award Winner

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

The Oklahoma Civil Rights Committee Award winner for FY2002 was Kenneth Risenhoover, District Conservationist in Poteau, Oklahoma. Kenneth received a \$1,000 award from the committee. Below is the text sent to the National Civil Rights Award nominations:

Kenneth Risenhoover, District Conservationist, has provided commendable and exemplary outreach to Native American tribes, minority groups, and small limited resource producers of LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

Mr. Risenhoover's effort resulted in more than 25 Laotian producers becoming district cooperators. Program participation success includes; three EQIP contracts, one SWCA contract, and one state cost-share contract. Two applications were submitted for 2003 EQIP funding.

Mr. Risenhoover's assistance to African-American producers yielded similar results. Efforts began with Levester McKesson, Mayor, Ft. Coffee, Oklahoma. Mr. McKesson assisted Mr. Risenhoover with organizing a series of educational meetings in coordination with Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC). Successes in the Ft. Coffee community include: two EQIP contracts, three state cost-share ponds, and one Wetland Reserve Program application.

Mr. Risenhoover also partnered with EOSC to conduct educational workshops for tribal members of the Choctaw and Cherokee Nations. These workshops resulted in the approval of 22 EQIP contracts, one SWCA contract, and nine state cost-share contracts. FY 2003 applications include: eight EQIP contracts and one Debt for Nature contract.

Additional assistance has been provided through Oklahoma's LCCD 319 program. In addition to traditional media efforts, flyers were printed in Spanish and distributed to landowners throughout the county. This effort resulted in ten Native Americans and one Hispanic receiving 319 contracts. One Hispanic producer signed-up for EQIP.

Through individual contacts and night meetings, Mr. Risenhoover has conducted extensive and effective outreach to historically under-served producers. Mr. Risenhoover's efforts are a true demonstration of his commitment to all clients of LeFlore County.

Congratulations to Kenneth Risenhoover for his work in LeFlore County!

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

DIST: AO